

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 1 and 2 as shown below. Please add new Claims 3-6. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An *in vitro* system for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

a mouse fibroblast culture derived from a transgenic mouse capable of expressing a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter; and

a means for generating reactive oxygen species within the mouse fibroblast culture wherein said reactive oxygen species are generated at levels sufficient for upregulating human elastin promoter activity.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for identifying agents capable of inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage comprising:

adding a test agent suspected of providing protection against oxidative damage to a mouse fibroblast culture derived from a transgenic mouse capable of expressing a reporter gene regulated by a human elastin promoter;

adding a means for generation of reactive oxygen species to the mouse fibroblast culture wherein said reactive oxygen species are generated at levels sufficient for upregulating human elastin promoter activity;

determining human elastin promoter activity in the mouse fibroblast culture exposed to the test agent after a selected time period; and

comparing the determined human elastin promoter activity in the mouse fibroblast culture exposed to the test agent to human elastin promoter activity in a control fibroblast culture

wherein a decrease in the determined human elastin promoter activity is indicative of the test agent inhibiting or preventing oxidative damage.

3. (New) An *in vitro* system according to Claim 1 wherein the means for generating reactive oxygen species is a chemical means.
4. (New) An *in vitro* system according to Claim 3 wherein the chemical means for generating reactive oxygen species is a hypoxanthine and xanthine oxidase system.
5. (New) A method according to Claim 2 wherein the means for generation of reactive oxygen species is a chemical means.
6. (New) A method according to Claim 5 wherein the chemical means for generation of reactive oxygen species is a hypoxanthine and xanthine oxidase system.